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APPLE SAYS IT WILL MANUFACTURE ENTIRE IPHONE 16 LINEUP IN INDIA

Weeks after launching its iPhone 16 series, Apple said that it will manufacture its entire iPhone 16 lineup, including premium devices, in India

PREMIUM DEVICES TO ROLL OUT THIS MONTH

This marks the first instance of Apple producing its premium devices outside China. The company said Indian-made iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max models will be rolled out this month. These will be available for local customers and will also be exported. "Apple is now manufacturing the entire iPhone 16 lineup, including iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, in India," it said

FOUR MORE APPLE STORES COMING UP

The iconic phone maker also said that it will open four more stores in India, to be located in Pune, Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR and Mumbai
■ Apple's manufacturing partners in India include Taiwanese giants Foxconn and Pegatron, as well as the Tata-owned Wistron. The Tata Group is Apple's only Indian manufacturing partner | P15

2017

WHEN THE U.S.-BASED TECH GIANT BEGAN MANUFACTURING THE IPHONE IN INDIA

Modi convenes urgent Cabinet meet to discuss West Asia crisis

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

AMID rising global tensions over the prospects of an Israel-Iran war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convened a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to discuss the evolving situation and its potential impact on India.

According to sources, a significant portion of the discussion focused on fuel and crude oil supplies, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman putting the status on trade with other countries. The committee deliberated on whether the rising international fuel prices, influenced by the situation involving Iran, could affect India's oil sector. A source said the Ministry of Finance ruled out any immediate adverse implications for India.

The CCS meeting, held late on Thursday evening, lasted over 20 minutes, during which various aspects of the unfolding situation were discussed.

Apart from ministers, officials from Home Affairs, External Affairs, Finance, and Defence were also present.

The ministers deliberated on the potential for trade relations with countries affected by the conflict, noting that India's trade interests could be hit.

Prime Minister Modi urged ministers and officials to maintain heightened vigilance and to closely monitor developments. He stressed the need to ensure the safety of Indian nationals working in West Asia. According to estimates, over 30,000 Indians are currently in Israel, while there are about 10,000 Indians in Iran.

Jaishankar-led team to attend SCO meet in Pak

First Indian foreign minister in nine years to visit the neighbour amid frosty bilateral ties

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation for the upcoming SCO Summit in Islamabad, making him the first Indian foreign minister to visit Pakistan in nine years. "Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation for the SCO Summit for Islamabad on October 15-16," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Friday.

The last time an Indian external affairs minister went to Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj in 2015.

There was no clarity on whether India will have any bilateral talks with other Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) members as Jaiswal said Jaishankar is travelling to Pakistan only to attend the summit.

During the SCO foreign ministers' meeting in Goa in 2023, Pakistan's foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto had travelled to India along with 11 journalists from his country. Significantly, Indian fugitive and radical Islamist Zakir Naik is in Pakistan over the past few days. He also met Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.

"We are not surprised that a fugitive from Indian justice has received a high-level welcome in Pakistan. It is disappointing and condemnable, but it is not surprising," said Jaiswal.

Bilateral ties became frosty after Indian Air Force jets bombed a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Balakot deep inside Pakistan in February 2019 in response to a terror attack on a CRPF bus in J&K's Pulwama. Months later, J&K's special powers under Article 370 were read down.

Pakistan retaliated by downgrading diplomatic ties with India. During his recent UN General Assembly address, Jaishankar said that while many countries get left behind due to circumstances beyond their control, some make conscious choices with disastrous consequences, pointing to Pakistan as a prime example. "A dysfunctional nation coveting the lands of others must be exposed and countered," he said.

He was rebuffing the false equivalence Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sought to draw between Kashmir and Palestine in his UNGA address the previous day. Later, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India could have extended much more aid to the neighbour than the IMF's \$7 billion had it mended its ways.

Foolproof security

Pakistan minister Mohsin Naqvi said personnel from the Army, Rangers, FC and Punjab police will be deployed to ensure foolproof security for the SCO guests, reports Dawn

28 MAOISTS KILLED IN SOUTH BASTAR



Bastar Inspector General of Police Sundaraj P inspects weapons recovered from Maoists after an encounter on September 25 in Narayanpur | EXPRESS

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

AT least 28 Maoists were killed in a fierce gun battle with the security forces close to the forested Nendur-Thulthuli area along the inter-district border of Dantewada and Narayanpur in south Bastar on Friday.

Bastar range Inspector General of Police Sundaraj P said the troopers have recovered 28 bodies so far. The count could go up further.

"Based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoists in the region, a joint team comprising District Reserve Guards and Special Task Force launched parallel search operations. While the encounter began around 1 pm, intermittent exchange of firing continued till late in the evening. Search operations in the region are under way," Prabhakar Kumar, Narayanpur district police chief, told this newspaper.

A large cache of assault weapons, including AK-47, self-loading rifles and explosives were recovered from the site, the police said. There was no report of any injury sustained by the forces.

The recovered bodies will be identified after the safe return of the security forces engaged in the operation.

Dantewada and Narayanpur are among the seven Maoist-affected districts in Bastar zone.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the operation and said the 'double engine' government (BJP government in the state and at the Centre) is determined to end the menace.

As many as 185 Maoist fighters have been neutralised by security forces this year alone (see table). Besides, 663 others have been arrested and 556 surrendered since January in the conflict-ridden Bastar zone.

Since 2019, as many as 277 new camps of central armed police forces were set up to fill the security vacuum in the Maoist-affected areas of the state.

Major encounters in Bastar this year

MARCH 27: 6 Maoists killed in Bijapur	APRIL 30: 9 Maoists killed at inter-district border Narayanpur-Kanker	AUG 29: 3 women Maoists killed on borders of Kanker-Narayanpur
APRIL 2: 13 Maoists killed in Bijapur	MAY 23: 7 Maoists killed on inter-district border Narayanpur-Bijapur	SEPT 3: 9 Maoists killed on inter-district border Dantewada-Bijapur
APRIL 6: 3 Maoists killed along C garh-Telangana border	JUNE 6: 7 Maoists killed on Narayanpur, Dantewada and Kondagaon	SEPT 25: 1 Maoist killed in Narayanpur
APRIL 16: 29 Maoists killed in Kanker	JUNE 15: 8 Maoists killed in Narayanpur	OCT 4: 28 Maoists killed on inter-district border Dantewada-Narayanpur

Maoists killed in last five years

2019	65
2020	40
2021	51
2022	30
2023	20
2024*	185

(* till Oct 4)

Whodunnit? B'luru girl killed at home

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MYSTERY shrouds the death of a 13-year-old schoolgirl in Bengaluru's Jayanagar after an autopsy revealed that she had been murdered.

The police are yet to crack the murder case registered more than three months ago.

Gargi Murulidhar, a resident of Ushas Apartment, 16th Main Road, Jayanagar 4 "T" Block, was found dead in her room on May 23. Her mother Shruthi

Deshpande, who tried to wake her up in the morning, found Gargi's bed wet, indicating that she had urinated at the time of her death.

Hearing Shruthi's screams, Gargi's father Murulidhar sought the help of two doctors residing in the same apartment. The doctors, who examined Gargi, asked Murulidhar to rush her to hospital. The couple then took Gargi to a private hospital in Jayanagar, where she was declared brought dead.

Suspecting foul play in his daughter's death, Murulidhar filed a complaint with Tilak Nagar police.

After registering an unnatural death report, the police shifted the body to Victoria Hospital for postmortem.

Death due to asphyxia, says forensic report

On July 18, the head of the hospital's Forensic Medicine Department gave a report to the police stating that the "death was due to asphyxia as a result

of smothering."

Based on the report, the police registered a murder case on July 18. Even after four months of the girl's suspicious death, the police are yet to crack the case. They, however, suspect that the accused must be known to the victim.

"Gargi's father works as a delivery manager with a private company, while her mother is a teacher. Gargi was having summer holidays. On May 22, she visited her grandfather's house in Ashok Nagar.

EXPRESS READ

SC forms SIT to probe Tirupati laddu row

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday set up a five-member independent SIT to probe the allegations of use of animal fat in preparing Tirupati laddus. The development assumes significance as this panel substitutes the Andhra government's SIT constituted to probe the allegations | P7

Haryana polls today, 1,027 candidates in fray

Chandigarh: The fate of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Vinesh Phogat of the Congress besides BJP's Dushyant Chautala and 1,027 other candidates will be decided on Saturday as elections to the 90-member Haryana assembly will be held with over 2 crore people eligible to vote | P12

Metro fares to be revised soon? Committee set up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

NAMMA Metro is all set to hike its fares within a few months. A three-member fare fixation committee has been formed for the purpose.

The committee has been given 90 days to submit its recommendations, which will be binding on Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL), according to Metro sources.

The committee is headed by retired Madras High Court judge Justice R Tharani and has Satyendra Pal Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and EV Ramana Reddy, former Additional Chief Secretary, Karnataka, as its members.

The last fare revision was done eight years ago. The minimum fare is Rs 10 and the maximum is Rs 60. Smart card users get a 5% fare discount.

An official said BMRL has been requesting the Centre for a fare revision for the past three years. "The committee will take into account the operational cost, the interest paid annually to international lending agencies, the loan amount, and other costs," he added.

Stating that public views will be sought on the proposed fare hike, he said, "On Thursday, we posted a notice on our website, appealing to Metro passengers to offer suggestions by October 21. Such notices will be displayed at all Metro stations soon."

Many Metro users have already opposed the proposed fare hike. Suggestions may be sent to ffo@bmrc.co.in or by post to The Chairperson, First Fare Fixation Committee, BMRL, 3rd Floor, C-Block, BMTC Complex, KH Road, Shanti Nagar, Bengaluru 560027.

GREEN LINE EXTENSION GETS NO: P2

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The memorial lecture can also be viewed on following links:

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